for the first and second communities, respectively, and wherein the method includes mapping similar graphics between the first and second sets of graphics to identical multiple user-selectable keys on the portable device.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the portable device permits text-based messaging communication with at least first and second domains of users, and wherein providing at least one set of graphics includes providing first and second different sets of graphics for the first and second domains of users.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 13, further comprising downloading from a web page additional graphics or sets of graphics for use by the portable device.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the computer-readable medium is semiconductor memory.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the computer-readable medium represents a logical node in a computer network receiving the contents.

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the computer-readable medium is a computer-readable disk.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the computer-readable medium is a data transmission medium carrying a generated data signal containing the contents.

21. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the computer-readable medium is a removable memory element.

22. An apparatus for use in a wireless network by a user, the apparatus comprising:

wireless transceiver means for enabling wireless communications;

user input means for receiving user input;

display means for displaying information to a user;

memory means for storing data and instructions; and

processor means coupled to the wireless transceiver means, user input means, display means and memory means;

wherein the processor means, executing at least some instructions in the memory, permits the user to compose a text-based message; and

wherein the user input means includes a button or button combination that, when actuated by the user, permits the user to include at least one emoticon in the text-based message, wherein the user actuation of the button or button combination is not a selection of a series of punctuation or alphanumeric characters, or a user-defined mapping of a button or button combination to an emoticon.

23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the user input means includes a touch-sensitive portion of the display means, wherein user actuation of the button causes an array of emoticons to be displayed on the display means, wherein the user may actuate the user input means to select one of the emoticons in the array to include in the text-based message.

24. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the wireless transceiver is configured to receive from an external source additional emoticons, and wherein the processor means and memory means are configured to permit the user to include at least one of the additional emoticons into the text-based message.

25. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein, after the user agrees to a predetermined payment, the apparatus receives from an external source at least one additional emoticon, and wherein the processor means and memory means are configured to permit the user to include the at least one additional emoticon into the text-based message.

26. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the user input means and processor means include a voice interface, wherein the user may provide vocal commands to the apparatus to select the at least one emoticon to include in the text-based message.

27. An apparatus for providing communications from a user to an external network, the apparatus comprising:

a memory;

at least one processor or controller coupled to the memory for permitting communication with the external network;

a housing configured to carry the memory and processor or controller; and

a user interface carried by the housing and coupled to the processor or controller, wherein the user interface includes at least one dedicated button having a primary configuration to permit the user to select at least one of multiple emoticons when actuated by the user.

28. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the button is a physical button carried by and at least partially accessible to the user through a portion of the housing.

29. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the user interface includes a touch-sensitive screen and the button is a default software switch controlled by the processor or controller.

30. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the user interface includes a microphone carried by the housing, and wherein the processor or controller is configured to receive verbal commands from the user to aurally select the at least one emoticon.

31. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the user interface includes a microphone carried by the housing, and wherein the processor or controller is configured to receive verbal commands from the user to aurally select the at least one emoticon.

32. The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising: at least one antenna; a wireless transceiver coupled to the antenna; a portable power supply; and an audio subsystem for exchanging voice signals with a user; and wherein the housing is sized to be held in a user's hand and is further configured to carry the antenna, wireless transceiver, and portable power supply.

33. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the user interface includes another button and a display device, and wherein user-actuation of the button causes the display device to display a palette of emoticons, and actuation of the another button causes selection of one of the emoticons in the palette.

34. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the housing is sized to be held in a user's hand, wherein the external network solicits user feedback, and wherein the user interface includes at least three buttons to permit the user to choose among at least three different emotional responses as user feedback to the external network.

35. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the housing is sized to simultaneously accommodate both hands of the user, and wherein the user interface includes multiple buttons, including the dedicated button.

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